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THE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND THE  
SANITARY INSPECTOR  
TO THE  
ST. IVES BOROUGH COUNCIL  
FOR THE YEAR  
1954.



Public Health Department,  
The Guildhall,  
ST. IVES, Cornwall.



MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Councillor. E. H. Curnow, Chairman,  
The Mayor. Councillor. J. Curnow,  
Councillor. Mrs. M. T. R. Pearce,  
Alderman. T. Bryant,  
Alderman. J. Payne,  
Councillor. T. Freeman,  
Councillor. W. D. Gill,  
Councillor. W. S. Lender,

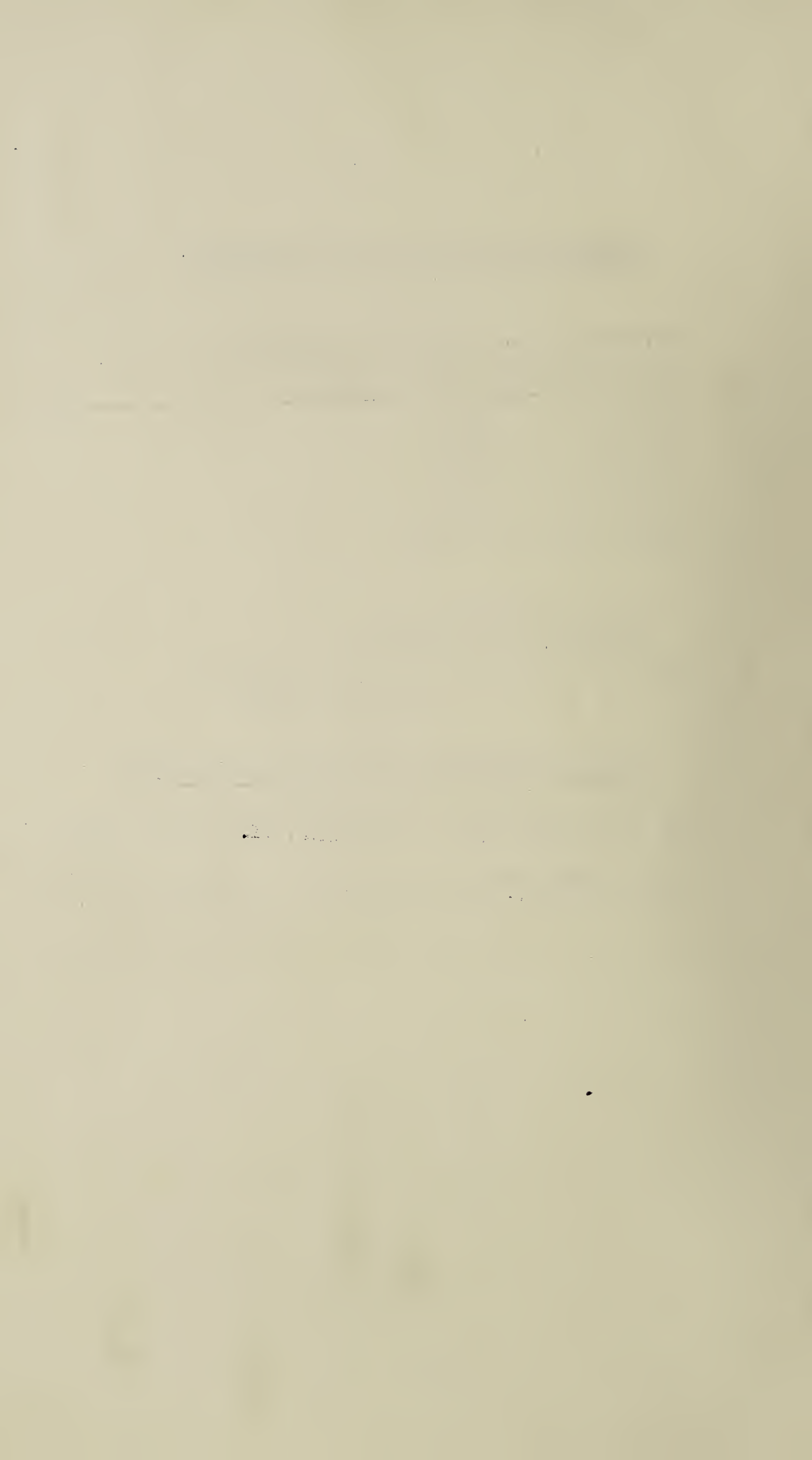
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Dr. W. K. Dunscombe, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,  
D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.

SANITARY INSPECTOR & CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT.

R. B. Girling, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I. (Resigned 5.7.54.)

P. C. Deeble, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I. (Commenced 1.10.54.)



To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors  
of the Borough of St. Ives,

Mr. Mayor, and Gentlemen,

The past year from the Health point of view was satisfactory. No cases of major infectious diseases occurred, there was a steady increase in the number of houses built, and the Health Department was beginning to settle down to what was hoped to be a period of steady unspectacular work.

Unfortunately the sudden departure of the Sanitary Inspector changed this and his successor did not take up duty for nearly four months. This then meant delay and because the Surveyor and his staff stepped into the breach, threw a lot of extra work on to them, to which they responded very well indeed. Since this event took place very shortly before meat was decontrolled it was necessary to seek the help of another Authority in dealing with meat inspection.

Some of the matters mentioned are referred to later in the report and it only remains therefore to thank the Committee for the interest they take in the work of the Department and my colleagues, the Chief Officers, and their staffs for their co-operation. I must, however, particularly thank the Surveyor, Mr. H. E. Phillips, for the very splendid help he gave in a most difficult period.

I am, Mr Mayor,

Your obedient Servant,

W. K. DUNSCOMBE,  
Medical Officer of Health.



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# STATISTICAL INFORMATION.

1954.

1.	Civilian Population (Registrar-General's Mid-Year Estimate.)	8,510.
2.	Area	4,339 acres
3.	Rateable Value	£88,622
4.	Product of 1d rate	£362
5.	No. of Inhabited Houses	3,181
6.	Live Births	51 Male. 47 Female.
	Rate per 1,000 population	98
		11.5
7.	Stillbirths	2 Male. 3 Female.
	Rate per 1,000 total births	5
		48.5
8.	Deaths of Infants under 1 year	2
9.	Deaths	62 Male. 52 Female.
	Rate per 1,000 population	114
		13.4

## TABLE OF CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>MALE.</u>	<u>FEMALE.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
Other Infective and Parastic Diseases	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	8	4	12
Diabetes	-	2	2
Vascular lesions of nervous systems	4	14	18
Coronary disease, angina	20	4	24
Hypertension with heart disease	1	3	4
Other heart disease	13	12	25
Other circulatory disease	1	2	3
Pneumonia	2	1	3
Bronchitis	1	1	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	3	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	1	2
Pregnancy, Child-birth, Abortion	-	1	1
Congenital malformations	2	-	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	1	6
All other accidents	1	2	3
	<u>62</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>114</u>

## PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH

Heart Disease	53
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	18
Cancer	14





1. VITAL STATISTICS COMMENT.

Once again I have to refer to the negative balance, i.e. the deaths being more numerous than the births. This was not the case last year but I have commented on it previously. It does reflect the important fact that immigration into the area is by older persons, and such immigration as takes place is by the younger persons of child bearing age. The estimated population shows an increase of 20 persons.

2. WATER SUPPLIES.

The rather wet summer had its compensations as far as water supplies were concerned since it meant that no difficulty arose.

A point of importance for future years and indeed perhaps for the immediate future is the fact that owing to the continual extensions of supplies, the filters at the Bussow reservoir are now working to more than their estimated maximum capacity. The need therefore for extension of the filter house and the installation of another filter and all the accompanying equipment for chlorination, back-washing, etc. should be anticipated in very good time.

The following table is of interest in showing the progress made with new supplies :-

	<u>1952.</u>	<u>1953.</u>	<u>1954.</u>
Number of Houses :-			
(a) With main supply	2961	3030	3090
(b) With standpipe supply	nil	48	46
(c) Without either	182	119	118

3. SEWERAGE.

No further improvement took place to the two areas i.e. Lelant and Halsetown, mentioned last year. It is a very unfortunate fact that the Council which regards itself as progressive will not make a move in this matter.

4. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

(a) General. As already mentioned no case of major infectious disease took place.

(b) Tuberculosis. Efforts were again concentrated on case finding and the ascertainment of their contacts and the resulting offer of B.C.G. vaccination to children and young persons. There is still a number of cases which appear to arise in a certain part of the town and we have no cause for complacency.

5. HOUSING.

During the year 44 houses were built by the Council and 25 by Private enterprise. Owing to the large number of houses now on the Penbeagle Estate and the distance from the main shopping centre, the Council took steps to provide two shops. This is a very excellent move and one hopes the shops will be a success, as they deserve to be well patronised.



No alteration took place in the method of allocation of Council Houses in spite of pleas to change the present points system, but I must say that the House Letting Sub-Committee gave the Department considerable help in dealing with some of the very bad cases we brought to their notice.

Slum Clearance. In view of the emphasis placed now on this, its importance in a town like St Ives and particularly the old Borough is obvious. I must emphasise that no-one wishes to destroy the general make up of the old town but even there, there is a number of properties which need drastic reconstruction to bring them up to the modern standards. Halsetown is another area which certainly must be dealt with and the possible acquisition of this area without a clear plan as to what is going to be done with it subsequently, is not by any means enough. This will mean a proper sewage scheme to which I have already referred.

#### 6. STAFF.

During the year a grievous misfortune befell us, as for certain reasons the Sanitary Inspector, Mr Girling, had to submit his resignation. This occurred just before the peak holiday season and left us in a great difficulty and I must thank Miss L. Couch for the very excellent way she held the fort until things could get sorted out.

I have already stated that a great deal of the extra work fell on the Surveyor and his Staff but I feel it is only fair to make acknowledgement again of the work the Surveyor particularly carried out at a very difficult time.

Mr. P. C. Deeble took up duty in October as Sanitary Inspector and naturally for this report has not yet had real opportunities of making detailed constructive comment. He has already, however, proved himself a most efficient officer.

#### 7. MEAT INSPECTION.

Detailed figures will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's report but some general comment is called for. Under the Control of Livestock Order, 1940 all meat slaughtered for the Penwith peninsula was killed in Penzance and that Borough carried out all the meat inspection.

The result was that when decontrol was announced this Council not only had to see that sufficient slaughter houses were licenced to ensure an adequate supply of meat, but had also of course to arrange for the inspection of all meat killed. Two licences were issued for private slaughter houses. In one case it meant a considerable alteration and reconstruction to an existing one, which being in fairly close proximity to a number of houses caused a good deal of adverse comment on the Council's action in issuing the licence, though in fact as the law stood they had no option. However, the reconstruction has been carried out very well and having regard to its position, is as satisfactory as can be expected. Very little work was required on the other slaughterhouse but this was also carried out quickly.



A considerable amount of meat consumed in the town is still being killed outside and we have to rely on the efficiency of meat inspection in the areas concerned to see that no uninspected meat is delivered to the shops.





ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st 1954.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors for the  
Borough of St. Ives.

Mr. Mayor, and Gentlemen,

Having only held office during the last three months of 1954, it is of course, not possible to comment fully on the work carried out by the Department during the year under review.

In considering this report, I feel that it is important to appreciate that the Department is also responsible for Housing Duties, which cannot fail to increase annually, in step with the completion of Housing Schemes. The Public Health work of the Department should not accordingly suffer, especially in a holiday resort of this nature, where such matters as the standard of catering establishments, the efficiency of the Public Cleansing Services and the condition of the Public Conveniences, can so strongly create a good or bad impression on the visiting public.

Your obedient servant,

P. C. DEEBLE.

Sanitary Inspector.

Public Health Dept,  
The Guildhall,  
ST. IVES, Cornwall.





## SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS.

Number of  
Visits.

### GENERAL SANITATION.

Drainage	225
Refuse Collection	33
Refuse Disposal	37
Public Conveniences	129
Tents, Vans & Sheds	9
Factories	3
Water Supply	5
Infectious Diseases and Disinfection	5
Rag Flock Premises	1
Rats and Mice	16
Filthy or Verminous Premises	23
Miscellaneous Visits	169

### HOUSING.

Houses Inspected under Public Health Acts	61
Houses Re-Inspected under Public Health Acts	47
Houses Inspected under Housing Acts	164
Houses Re-Inspected under Housing Acts	13
Miscellaneous Visits	209

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Slaughterhouses	57
Butchers Shops	35
Dairies and Milk Distributors	5
Fishmongers and Poulterers	6
Food Preparing Premises	13
Fried Fish Shops	10
Grocers Shops	22
Ice Cream Premises	16
Restaurants	8
Miscellaneous Visits	2

Total visits and inspections	...	1,323
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### NOTICES SERVED.

Number of Informal Notices Served	9
Number of Statutory Notices Served	3

### HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENT ACT, 1954.

Certificates of Disrepair Issued	2
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1. MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

From the commencement of Private Slaughtering in July, to the end of September, the meat inspection was undertaken by the Chief Sanitary Inspector and his Staff, of the Penzance Borough Council. No doubt the Council would like their appreciation for this work, recorded in this report.

ANNUAL INSPECTION SUMMARY.

	<u>CATTLE</u>	<u>COWS</u>	<u>PIGS</u>	<u>SHEEP</u>
Number of Animals Slaughtered.	67	--	88	25
<u>ALL DISEASES-Excluding Tuberculosis.</u>				
Whole Carcase Condemned.	-	-	-	-
Part Carcase or Organ Condemned.	22	-	3	2
Percentage affected with Disease other than Tuberculosis.	33	--	3	8
<u>TUBERCULOSIS.</u>				
Whole Carcase Condemned.	-	--	-	-
Part Carcase or Organ Condemned	8	-	2	-
Percentage affected with Tuberculosis.	12	-	2	-

One carcase was found to be affected with Cysticercus Bovis and was subjected to the recommended cold storage treatment.

FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED.

Fresh Meat (Slaughterhouse)	347	lbs.
Fresh Meat (Shops)	93	lbs.
Tinned Meat	350	lbs.
Various Tinned Goods	725	lbs.
Fish	115	lbs.
Total condemned ... ..	1,630	lbs.

2. NUISANCES.

193 complaints were received and dealt with by the department.

3. RODENT CONTROL.

During the year the normal routine inspections and control measures were continued and all requests for treatment were given urgent attention.

Credit should be given to Mr. T. Nankervis for the conscientious and able way he keeps the town substantially free from rodents.



4. GULLY CLEANSING & CESSPOOL EMPTYING MACHINE.

<u>PRIVATE HIRE.</u>	<u>Cesspit Cleansed.</u>
St Ives Borough	50
West Penwith Area	117
St Just Area	6
Penhance Borough	9
Camborne Area	1
Helston Area	1
County Council Area	12 whole days.
Total ... ..	196

It will be noted that the majority of the private hire work was again carried out in the West Penwith Area. This work entailed a considerable amount of administrative work and it is hoped that during the following year, arrangements may be made to ensure that the West Penwith Rural District Council take over the office work entailed in the hire of the vehicle, to persons within their own area.

5. SALE OF ICE CREAM.

Five applications were received for the registration of premises, in accordance with the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. The premises were inspected and found to be satisfactory and registrations granted.

Eight Ice cream samples were taken, with the results as follows :-

Grade 1 - 6	Grade 2 - Nil
Grade 3 - 2	Grade 4 - Nil

6. WATER SAMPLES.

6 samples were submitted for analysis, the reports being as follows :-

Stand pipe adjoining Methodist Church, Halsetown.	Satisfactory.
Pump, Middle Row, Halsetown.	Satisfactory. water very soft.
"Auklands" Treloyhan.	Satisfactory.
"Yaroosh" Rosewall Hill.	Satisfactory.
"Custom House Studio" (Sample 1)	Satisfactory.
"Custom House Studio" (Sample 2)	Satisfactory.

7. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Disposal continued at the controlled tip at Hayle, used jointly by the West Penwith Rural District Council and this Authority.

I feel that I should be wrong in not pointing out the very serious consideration given by this Council to the ever increasing costs of the refuse collection service and their willingness to take all reasonable steps, however unpleasant, to increase efficiency.





During the summer season the Council authorised the employment of a third vehicle and collection team. It is my wish to dispense with the use of this third team during the 1955 season, fully aware that the labour costs will correspondingly increase, but in the hope that the saving on transport costs will outweigh this increase.

It must however be appreciated that ever rising labour costs, coupled with the Council's Building Programme, must inevitably show a progressive rise in the cost of this service. In view of these remarks it is not surprising that the number of 1968 loads tipped at the Hayle tip showed an increase of 209 loads over the figures for 1953.

# 8. ROAD SWEEPING.

The mileage of roads requiring sweeping amounted to approximately 20 miles of unclassified roads and 10.53 of County Council roads.

# 9. FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1948.

The number of Factories registered in the Borough is 65.

# 10. FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health (including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

<u>PREMISES.</u>	Number on Register.	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	13	1	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	49	2	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding out-workers premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	65	3	-	-

In no cases were defects found

# 11. CARAVAN AND CAMPING SITES.

Four sites were again licensed. I am glad to be able to report that the sanitary circumstances of the sites have reached a reasonably high standard.

In addition the Council operated their own site at Porthgwithden, the Sanitary accomodation for the site being an adjacent Public Convenience. The use of this site for a further season is subject to resolution by the Council.

Further a man is subject to resolution by the Council.  
adjutant Public Convention. The use of this title for  
Sweden, the Ministry of Education for the Council  
in 1871 and 1872.



12. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

I am indebted to Mr. H. A. Rundle of the Cornwall County Council for the following details of sampling of foodstuffs within the Borough by this Department.

<u>Article Sampled.</u>	<u>Number Taken</u>	<u>Genuine</u>	<u>Adulterated.</u>
Beef Sausages	2	2	-
Brawn	1	1	-
Butter	2	2	-
Cid-rella (Non-alcoholic)	1	1	-
Clotted Cream	1	1	-
Lard	1	1	-
Milk	20	20	-
Pork Sausages	3	3	-
Potted Shrimps	1	1	-
Table Jelly	1	1	-
Tangerine Squash	1	1	-
TOTAL ... ..	34	34	-

There were no adulterated samples found within the Borough of St Ives during the year 1954.



PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORKERS.

(Section 110 and 111)

NATURE OF WORK	M/C LINE No.	Section 110			Section 111		
		NUMBER OF OUT-WORKERS ON AUGUST LIST REQUIR ED BY SEC. 110 (1) (c) (3)	NO. OF CAUSES OF DEFAULT IN SENDING LISTS TO THE COUNCIL (4)	NUMBER OF PROSECUTIONS FOR FAILURE TO SUPPLY LISTS (5)	NUMBER OF INSTANCES OF ORK IN UNWHOLE SOME PREMISES. (6)	NOTICES SERVED (7)	PROSECUTIONS. (8)
(1)	(2)						
Wearing ) Making etc. apparel )	13	1	1	-	-	-	-
Mets, other than wire nets.	23	16	1	-	-	-	-
TOTAL.	70	17	2	-	-	-	-



APPENDIX A.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.  
(Corrected Notification)

1954.

DISEASE.	PENZANCE BOROUGH.	ST. IVES BOROUGH.	WEST PENWITH R.D.C.	ST JUST U.D.C.
Scarlet Fever.	11	5	15	-
Whooping Cough	31	9	58	23
Measles	7	164	14	2
Pneumonia	-	-	5	-
Tuberculosis - Respiratory.	14	11	11	5
Other	2	2	3	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	1	-
Rheumatic Fever.	-	1	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	15	-
Erysipelas.	-	-	1	-

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION. 1954.

Area	Number of Children who completed a full course of Immunisation in 1954.			Number of Children re- ceiving Re- fresher doses.
	Under 5.	5 - 14.	Total.	
PENZANCE.	205	22	227	552
ST. IVES.	106	8	114	81
WEST PENWITH R.D.	228	32	260	128
ST. JUST U.D.	75	4	79	39



TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS 1954.

Nos. on Register		1	5	5	15	15	20	20	25	25	35	35	45	45	65	Over 65	Total.
<u>PENZANCE.</u>	M.	90	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	1	1	6
	F.	65	1	-	1	-	1	-	3	-	2	-	(1)	1	-	-	8
	M.	13	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	(1)	2
	F.	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
<u>WEST PENWITH.</u>		49	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	1	-	(1)	2	2	-	6
<u>Non-Pul.</u>	M.	49	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	5
	F.	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	1
	M.	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F.	14	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
<u>ST. JUST.</u>		25	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	1	5
<u>Non-Pul.</u>	M.	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
	F.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	M.	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
<u>ST. IVES.</u>		39	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	7
<u>Non-Pul.</u>	M.	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	3	-	-	-	6
	F.	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	M.	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

( ) = Deaths.

Total Notifications 52.

Total Deaths 12.





APPENDIX O.

HOUSING.

1.	The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation.	8
2.	The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	4
3.	The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to (a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works or (b) the making of demolition or closing orders.	3
4.	The number of notices served requiring the execution of works.	1
5.	The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices.	Nil
6.	The number of demolition or closing orders made.	Nil
7.	The number of houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted under Sections 11 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.	3
8.	The number of houses demolished.	Nil

